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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR COATING OBJECTS THROUGH PVD		
<p>The diagram illustrates a vacuum processing system. At the bottom, a transport device (5) moves rectangular objects through a vertical sequence of chambers. The first chamber is labeled 'III' at the bottom right. Above it is another chamber labeled 'III'. To the left of the transport device is a vertical stack of four rectangular components labeled '12', '13', '14', and '1'. Above the transport device is a large horizontal tube labeled '2'. Arrows indicate the flow path: an arrow labeled 'IX' points to the left side of the transport device; an arrow labeled 'IV' points down towards the transport device; an arrow labeled 'V' points up towards the tube '2'; an arrow labeled 'VI' points down towards the transport device; an arrow labeled 'VII' points up towards the tube '2'; an arrow labeled 'VIII' points down towards the transport device; and an arrow labeled 'VII' points up towards the tube '2'.</p>		
(57) Abstract	<p>The invention relates to an apparatus (1) for applying at least one coating to objects by means of vapour deposition (PVD) under vacuum, comprising: a preprocessing device (3) for performing a preprocessing on the object; a PVD device (2) for coating an object under a vacuum; and a postprocessing device (4) for postprocessing the objects, wherein: the apparatus comprises a transport device (5) which extends through the preprocessing device, the PVD device and the postprocessing device, the transport device is adapted to transport objects arranged on carriers, and the PVD device is adapted for semi-continuous treatment of objects arranged on the carriers.</p>	

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